

Message Text

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ACTION AF-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-02 ISO-00 SSO-00 /005 W

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O 041605Z SEP 76 ZFF4

FM USDEL SECRETARY IN ZURICH

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 26021

EYES ONLY FOR SPIERS FROM PASSAGE

EE.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) ZA, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET AMBASSADOR ATTACK ON US/UK INITIATIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF LUSAKA 2274, FOR YOUR USE
PER DISCUSSIONS:

BEGIN TEXT: SPEAKING AT CEREMONY WHERE HE PRESENTED
3,000 BOOKS TO THE GRZ CENTRAL COMMITTEE, AMB. SOLODNIKOV
ATTACKED US AND UK INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ACCORDING
TO SEPT. 3 TIMES OF AZMAIB ACCOUNT, HE CHARACTERIZED THEIR
INVOLVEMENT AS "SINISTER". "I WANT TO SAY VERY HONESTLY,
THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE INTENTIONS OF THE IMPERIALIST
POWERS--THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN--OF ELIMINATING THE
SMITH CLIQUE AND BRING ABOUT MAJORITY RULE. EQUALLY, WE DO
NOT BELIEVE THAT THESE POWERS INTEND TO GIVE GENUINE INDEPENDENCE
TO THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA. IN FACT THEIR PLANS ARE AIMED AT
AT PERPETUATING THE REGIMES OF SMITH AND VORSTER AND CRUSH
THE UNITY OF AFRICA AND THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS....
CONTRARY TO SOME WESTERN COUNTRIES WHICH TALK PLENTY ABOUT
RESPECT TO FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY, USSR RENDERED PRACTICAL
SUPPORT TO PEOPLE FIGHTING FOR THEIR INDEPENDENCE." END TEXT

2. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE RECENTLY
ARRIVED SOLODNIKOV IS UNUSUAL AMONG SOVIET DIPLOMATIS IN
AFRICA. ATTRACTIVE PERSONALITY, FLUENT IN ENGLISH AND
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HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ON AFRICA HE BID FAIR TO PLAY AN

IMPORTANT ROLE IN LUSAKA. HOWEVER, THE SPEECH QUOTED ABOVE WILL NOT PLEASE THE ZAMBIANS. ON THE CONTRARY IT IS LIKELY TO IRRITATE KAUNDA AND COULD SERIOUSLY LIMIT SOLODOVNIKOV'S EFFECTIVENESS IN ZAMBIA DURING HIS TENURE HERE. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A TACTICAL MISTAKE TO TAKE EXCEPTION PUBLICLY WITH SOLODOVNIKOV'S COMMENTS AND CAST THE DISPUTE AS ONE BETWEEN THE US AND UK. ON ONE HAND AND THE SOVIETS ON THE OTHER. THIS APPROACH WOULD IRRITATE THE ZAMBIANS AND LET THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR OFF THE HOOK. RATHER WE WILL TRY TO CAST REMARKS AS AN AFFRONT TO ZAMBIA AND TO TURN THE ARGUMENT TO ONE BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND THE ZAMBIANS. WE ARE NOT PLANNING TO ISSUE ANY PRESS RELEASES. IF QUERIED, THE PAO WILL EXPRESS OUR SURPRISE THAT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WOULD MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT IN ZAMBIA. IN OUR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH ZAMBIANS WE WILL POINT OUT THAT THE SPEECH IS CONTRARY TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S STATEMENT THIS WEEK THAT HE WELCOMED U.S. INITIATIVES, AND SAY WE ARE PUZZLED THAT HE WOULD WANT TO CRITICIZE THE ZAMBIANS IN THIS WAY. I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE WHO WILL TAKE THE SAME LINE. WE WILL MAKE THESE POINTS ORALLY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND STATE HOUSE. LOW UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, INTERVENTION, AMBASSADORS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SECTO26021
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760336-0775
From: SECRETARY ZURICH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760990/aaaaczbn.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET AMBASSADOR ATTACK ON US/UK INITIATIVES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
TAGS: OVIP, ZA, UR, US, UK, XJ, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (SOLODVNIKOV)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006